

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE )

No. 43 )

NOTICE  
OF  
FORMAL PROCEEDINGS

TO: JUDGE ROBERT S. STEVENS

IT APPEARING THAT since July 28, 1977, and at all times herein, you have been a Judge of Los Angeles Superior Court, County of Los Angeles; and

Preliminary investigation having been made pursuant to the provisions of Rule 904 of the California Rules of Court concerning censure, removal, retirement or private admonishment of judges, during the course of which preliminary investigation you were afforded a reasonable opportunity to present such matters as you chose, and this Commission as a result of said preliminary investigation, having concluded that formal proceedings to inquire into the charges against you shall be instituted pursuant to section 18 of Article VI of the California Constitution and in accordance with Rules 901-922, California Rules of Court,

NOW, THEREFORE, you are hereby charged with conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute, in that,

Count One

You have harassed and annoyed Richard and Bethany Murphy principally by means of conversations during which you have used vulgar and offensive language of an explicitly sexual nature. You persisted in this conduct over the objections of the Murphys. Because of your refusal to refrain from engaging in such conduct, the Murphys sought assistance from others and your improper conduct has become a matter of widespread public knowledge.

Count Two

*Stricken  
April 15, 1980*  
~~You have harassed and annoyed Irene Gladden by means of telephone conversations wherein you have used vulgar and offensive language of an explicitly sexual nature. You engaged in this conduct over the objections of Ms. Gladden.~~ *WB*

Count Three

Sometime in September of 1979, you had a conversation in the Senate Chambers of the State Capitol in Sacramento with Sue Foreman and Christina Holben, the latter of whom you had just met. During that conversation you made uninvited, vulgar and offensive remarks centered on the theme of your preference for engaging in oral sex with women.

Count Four

You have abused your judicial office by subjecting persons in subordinate positions, named below, to unacceptable and offensive telephone or personal conversations in situations where the persons were intimidated by your official position and embarrassed and affronted by the encounters:

Richard Murphy

Bethany Murphy

~~Irene Gladden~~ WE *Amended*  
*April 15, 1980*

Sue Foreman

Christina Holben

You have the right to file a written answer to these charges within fifteen (15) days after service of this notice upon you with the Commission on Judicial Performance, Room 3180, State Building, 350 McAllister Street, San Francisco, California 94102. Such answer shall be verified, shall conform in style to subdivision (c) of Rule 15 of the Rules on Appeal, and shall consist of the original and eleven legible copies.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE.

DATED: Jan. 2, 1980.

Thomas Kaysen  
Chairman